

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Canceled)**
2. **(New)** A method of preventing onset of Type I diabetes in a mammal predisposed to Type I diabetes, comprising implanting insulin-producing cells encapsulated in a biologically-compatible membrane into an implantation site in said mammal prior to onset of Type I diabetes.
3. **(New)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said cells are from a primary cell source.
4. **(New)** The method of Claim 3, wherein said cells are pancreatic islet cells.
5. **(New)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said cells are encapsulated in a conformal coating.
6. **(New)** The method of Claim 5, wherein said conformal coating comprises polyethylene glycol (PEG).
7. **(New)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the insulin-producing cells are from the same species as the mammal.
8. **(New)** The method of Claim 2, wherein Type I diabetes is prevented without continuous immunosuppression.
9. **(New)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the cells are implanted intraperitoneally.